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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS
Organizational session
New York, 12-30 July 1993

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

List of issues
(Submitted by the Government of Colombia)

1. Substantive subjects and issues proposed for discussion at the Conference:

1.1. Since the majority of high seas fishing activities occur in areas where there is no system of administration and management for them, the Conference should work towards adopting the management and regulatory measures required for the administration of such fisheries, which take into account the principles of sustainable environmental management. It is important to consider the applicability of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing (Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 15-19 March 1993). The applicability and relevance of that Code must be subject to the incorporation within it of the "precautionary principle".

1.2. Agreement on international, global and regional mechanisms to ensure effective control and monitoring of high seas fisheries

It should be borne in mind that the concept of sustainable development derives from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that, accordingly, this focus should be maintained in each of the agreements reached under the convention.

The convention must take into account its applicability under different circumstances based on: the regional characteristics which influence and ecologically identify the international zone of one or more coastal States and which have an effect on the abundance and distribution of species; the ability of adjacent coastal States to have access to those resources and/or cooperation agreements for that

purpose; the environmental impact of ocean-atmosphere interaction on the abundance and distribution of the fish stocks in the high seas; the central economic dependence of coastal States on fisheries resources; the excess capacity of fishing fleets; the international market for fish products in the international zone (management measures applied in national jurisdiction zones must be compatible with those applied on the international market); periodic reviews of the degree of effectiveness of and compliance with the measures set out in regional and international agreements deriving from the Conference; and, lastly, a periodic review of the environmental impact of regional fishing activities.

1.3. The convention should reaffirm the validity of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. That would ensure its consistency with the agreements reached during the preparatory process leading up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the results of the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, held at Cancún, and the agreements reached in the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development.